

RETURN

[67h].

TO AN ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, dated the 20th January, 1913, for a copy of all documents and memorials of the Government of British Columbia presenting claims for additional provincial subsidies and of all correspondence and Orders in Council on the same.

LOUIS CODERRE,

Secretary of State.

AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, VICTORIA, B.C.,

The 24th of March, 1908.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, copy of a Minute of Council, dated the 19th instant, containing a resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly during the late session referring to the payment to British Columbia of an additional grant of \$100,000 for a period of ten years, as an adequate settlement of the claim of this province for special treatment, and urging the Dominion Government to take steps to bring about a fair and adequate settlement of this matter.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) GORDON HUNTER,

Administrator.

The Honourable
The Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

COPY of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor on the 19th day of March, 1908.

The Committee of Council submit for approval of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor the undermentioned Resolution of the Legislative Assembly, namely:—

‘WHEREAS, the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, by an Address signed by the Speakers of the Senate and Commons of Canada, on the 26th day of April, 1907, did petition the King’s Most Excellent Majesty to cause to be laid before the Imperial Parliament a measure to make certain amendments to the scale of payments to be made by Canada to the several provinces of the Dominion, under Section 118 of “THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT, 1867,” or by or under the terms or conditions upon which any other provinces were admitted to the Union, and praying that such amended scale of payments should be a final and unalterable settlement of the

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amounts to be paid yearly to the several provinces of the Dominion for their local purposes and the support of their Government and Legislatures; and

‘WHEREAS by “THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT, 1907,” passed by the Imperial Parliament to make further provision with respect to the sums to be paid by Canada to the several provinces of the Dominion, it is enacted inter alia, that

“An additional grant of one hundred thousand dollars shall be made yearly to the Province of British Columbia for a period of ten years from the commencement of this Act,” and

‘WHEREAS this grant of one hundred thousand dollars a year for ten years was intended by the Dominion Parliament as a settlement of the claim of British Columbia for special treatment at the hands of the Dominion of Canada, as stated by the Prime Minister of Canada in the Dominion House of Commons on March 25, 1907, and as also appears by the proceedings of the conference between members of the Government of Canada and of the various Provincial Governments at the city of Ottawa, in the month of October, 1906, and

‘WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, by a resolution passed on the 25th day of March, 1907, declared that:—

“The proposed additional allowance of one hundred thousand dollars annually for ten years, as compensation for the recognized claims of British Columbia, is inadequate, and cannot be accepted as a final and unalterable settlement”; and

‘WHEREAS said “BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT, 1907” does not make final and unalterable said amended scale of payments to the province, and cannot affect the right of future negotiations between the province and the Dominion, with reference to said recognized special claim of British Columbia;

‘THEREFORE, be it resolved, that this House, adhering to the position that said grant of one hundred thousand dollars annually for ten years is inadequate, affirms its right to further urge on the Dominion Government that steps be taken to bring about a fair and adequate settlement of the recognized claim of British Columbia for special treatment at the hands of Canada; and

‘That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, praying him that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor General in Council.’

The Committee advise that a copy of this Minute, if approved, be forwarded to the Honourable the Secretary of State.

(Sgd.) FRED. J. FULTON,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

P.C. 495.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

CERTIFIED COPY of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor on the 21st day of February, A.D. 1912.

The Committee of Council submit for the approval of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor the undermentioned resolution of the Legislative Assembly, namely:—

‘WHEREAS by a resolution passed on March 7, 1908, this House declared that the grant of \$100,000 annually for ten years, provided by the “British North America

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Act, 1907." to be paid to this Province, is inadequate as a settlement of the claims of British Columbia for special treatment at the hands of Canada; and

'WHEREAS this House, affirmed in said resolution its right to further urge on the Dominion government that steps be taken to bring about a fair and adequate settlement of the recognized claim of this province; and

'WHEREAS, it appears from the report of Hon. Mr. R. McBride, Hon. W. J. Bowser and Hon. W. R. Ross, a delegation from the Government of British Columbia to Ottawa in November, 1911, that, in response to their representations, the Dominion Government is prepared to appoint a Commission, as requested in a memorandum submitted to the Dominion Government by the Hon. W. R. McBride on October 9, 1906, to investigate the merits of the claim made by this province; such Commission to be composed of three persons of eminent repute, one Commissioner to be named by the Dominion, one by the Province, and the third by agreement of the two Commissioners, or failing such agreement, by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:

'THEREFORE, be it resolved, that this House endorses the course taken by said delegation, and is of the opinion that such Commission be appointed at an early date; and that an humble Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor requesting that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable the Secretary of State at Ottawa.'

The Committee advise that a copy of this Minute, if approved, be forwarded to the Honourable the Secretary of State.

(Sgd.) HENRY ESSON YOUNG,
Clerk Executive Council.

VICTORIA, 21st February, A.D. 1912.

AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, VICTORIA, B.C.,
February 23, 1912.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, a certified copy of an approved Minute embodying a resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly with respect to the annual grant paid to the province under the British North America Act, 1907.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) THOS. W. PATERSON,
Lieutenant Governor.

The Honourable
The Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

P.C. 175.

CERTIFIED COPY of a Report of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Administrator on the 26th January, 1912.

Upon a report of the Right Honourable Robert Laird Borden, Prime Minister, in which he observes that on the sixth day of November, 1911, the following members of the Government of the Province of British Columbia, namely, the Hon. Richard McBride, Prime Minister and Minister of Mines, the Hon. William John Bowser, Attorney General and the Hon. William R. Ross, Minister of Lands, presented a memorial setting forth various matters affecting the Province of British Columbia to which they asked the consideration of the Government of Canada.

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The Prime Minister further observes that among the subjects with which the aforesaid memorandum deals, those hereinafter mentioned were included.

The Prime Minister recommends that he be authorized to send to the Hon. Richard McBride, Premier of British Columbia a telegram in the following terms:—

OTTAWA, January 24, 1912.

Hon. RICHARD McBRIDE,
Premier of British Columbia,
Victoria, B.C.

‘Replying to your memorandum of the 6th November, 1911, respecting the claim of British Columbia for exceptional treatment by reason of permanent physical conditions and otherwise as set forth in your memorandum of 9th October, 1906, we are prepared to appoint a Commission to investigate the merits of claim made by your province in this regard one Commissioner to be named by this Government, one by your Government, and the third to be selected by agreement of the two Commissioners, or failing such agreement by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

‘Asiatic Immigration.—This question is to be taken up as soon as possible in connection with the new Treaty with Japan to which Canada has not yet acceded. The interests of Canada in respect of immigration will be safeguarded and your Government will be consulted with regard to considerations specially affecting British Columbia.

‘Songhees Reserve and drill hall matters have already been settled satisfactorily. The question of Foreshores is under consideration by the Department of Justice,’

The Committee concurring in the foregoing recommendation submit the same for approval.

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

MEMORANDUM.

BETTER TERMS.

This issue is one which has already been discussed at length with both the Dominion and Imperial Governments. The data on file at Ottawa fully covers the position taken by the province. We most respectfully urge upon you the appointment, jointly with British Columbia, of a competent tribunal, through whose agency the whole matter may be finally disposed of. We are prepared, at your convenience, to go fully into the matter with you.

(Sgd.) RICHARD McBRIDE,
W. J. BOWSER,
WM. R. ROSS.

RUSSELL HOUSE, OTTAWA, November 6, 1911.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT,
OTTAWA, CANADA, January 23, 1913.

THOMAS MULVEY, Esq., K.C.,
Under Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to order of the House of Commons, reference No. 372, Mover Sir Wilfrid Laurier, for copy of all documents, etc., of the Government of British Columbia, presenting claims for additional provincial subsidies, etc., I beg to say that so far as the Department of Finance is concerned, there are no documents from the Government of British Columbia.

Yours truly,

T. C. BOVILLE,
Deputy Minister of Finance.